

English E Reading Instruction

A: The Personal Dictionary

For this class, you will be expected to create a **Personal Dictionary (PD)** in which you will keep a record of all the new words and *expressions* (groups of words that have a special meaning) you are learning in your reading. This record is not a simple list of new words and their Japanese translations. Learning new words is important, but in order to increase your reading skills you **MUST** start to understand how single words are used to create complex sentences. You need to begin to understand how single words work together to create meaning. When single words are connected together in a sentence, the meaning of the whole sentence is often quite different than the meaning of the single words in that sentence.

Example: What does your old man do?

If you translated this sentence directly from English to Japanese you would have something like:

あなたと 老人は何をしますか？

Unfortunately this is totally wrong because in this case you **CANNOT** translate this sentence directly and understand what it means. The real meaning of this sentence is something more like:

おやじの仕事は何ですか？

In order to understand this sentence you have to understand how the words are organized into expressions that have a unique meaning when they are together in a sentence. In this case, "your old man" and "What does (someone) do?" are special expressions that have different meanings than their single words. In your Personal Dictionary, you will make a record of these types of expressions that you find in your reading. In your Personal Dictionary, you will organize these expressions into four categories: Words, Collocations, Fixed-Expressions, and Semi-Fixed Expressions.

Category	Description	Examples
A: SINGLE WORDS	For this category, you will list any new single words. But remember, if this new word is part of an expression, you should list it as one of the categories below.	<i>The physician had a hectic shift.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physician • hectic • shift
B: COLLOCATIONS	Collocations are word partners - single words that often go together with other single words. When you are learning new words, it is better to learn their partner words as well.	<i>She is better at waking up in the morning, so she is hardly ever absent from school.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • better at • to wake up • hardly ever • to be absent from
C: FIXED EXPRESSIONS	Fixed Expressions are larger groups of words that always go together to create a special meaning. Many of these are expressions that are used in special situations, such as:	a. Social Greetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good morning! • Merry Christmas • What's up? b. "Guide Book" English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you tell me how to get to . . . ? • May I take your order? • How long will it take? c. Idiomatic Expressions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hang on! • Get out of here! • Don't cry over spilled milk.
D: SEMI-FIXED EXPRESSIONS	Semi-Fixed Expressions are similar to Fixed-Expressions, but they can be changed a little to fit different situations.	Hi, Tom, I haven't seen you in ages. <div style="text-align: right;">in a while.</div> <div style="text-align: right;">forever.</div> What was really interesting was . . . <div style="text-align: right;">surprising</div> <div style="text-align: right;">annoying</div>

These are the categories of words and expressions that you should include in your PD. Next, we will talk about how to make an entry in your Personal Dictionary.

B: Making an Entry in your Personal Dictionary.

First, you will need to buy a B5-size notebook (40枚/6mm), and on the front cover write the course name (English E), the number of your class (2), your name, and student number. Starting with the 2nd page, write your entries using hand-writing that I can read. At the top of the page, always write the name of the article where you found these entries. The type of entry you will make in your dictionaries depends on whether it is a Single Word, Collocation, Fixed Expression or Semi-Fixed Expression. Please look at the following examples and follow the same formats in your PD's.

1. Single Words For single words, please write

a. the word b. the word form (noun, verb, adjective, etc.) c. Japanese translation d. any derivatives of the words you can find e. the Japanese translation of the derivative. (Derivatives are different forms of the same word and we will talk about those next week.)

Personal Dictionary Entry for: **dominates**

a	b	c	d	e
DOMINATES	present tense singular verb	(日本語訳文)	to dominate (verb infinitive)	(日本語訳文)
			dominated (past tense, participle)	(日本語訳文)
			domination (noun)	(日本語訳文)
			to domineer (verb)	(日本語訳文)
			domineering (adjective)	(日本語訳文)

2. Collocations For collocations, please write:

a. the key word b. the key word and its partner word(s) c. Japanese translation d. additional collocations or expressions using the same key word e. Japanese translations

Personal Dictionary Entry for: **to fly from (somewhere)**

a	b	c	d	e
FLY	to fly from Xian	(日本語訳文)	to fly over	(日本語訳文)
			to fly into (Miyazaki)	(日本語訳文)
			to fly on (ANA)	(日本語訳文)
			to fly by the seat of your pants	(日本語訳文)
			to fly in the face of reason	(日本語訳文)

3. Fixed Expressions For fixed expressions, please write:

a. the key word(s) b. the fixed expression c. the Japanese translation d. additional expressions that have the same or similar meanings (synonyms).

Personal Dictionary Entry for: **a long, long, time ago**

a	b	c	d
TIME/AGO	a long time ago	(日本語訳文)	many years ago
			a long time in the past
			ages ago

4. Semi-Fixed Expressions For semi-fixed expressions, please write:

a. the key word(s) b. the semi-fixed expression c. the Japanese translation d. the same expression using different words e. the Japanese translation f. additional expressions that have the same or similar meanings g. the Japanese translation of (f)

Personal Dictionary Entry for: **sooner than I expected**

a	b	c	d	e	f	g
SOONER	sooner than I expected	(日本語訳文)	sooner than I hoped	(日本語訳文)	surprisingly fast	(日本語訳文)
THAN			sooner than I wished	(日本語訳文)	all of a sudden	(日本語訳文)
			sooner than I thought	(日本語訳文)	before you know it	(日本語訳文)
			・・・-er than I ・・・	(日本語訳文)		

C: Grading for the PD

Remember, your PD is 40% of your final grade. They will be graded on quantity (how much = 75%) and quality (how well = 25%). If you are not sure what to do at this point, don't worry too much. In the next few weeks, I will explain in more detail. At any time, if you have any questions, please ask. The only stupid question is the question that isn't asked!

Sample Page of Personal Dictionary

Source: "Living in the Real World"			
DOMINATES	present tense singular verb (日本語訳文)		to dominate (verb infinitive)
	(日本語訳文)		
	dominated (past tense, participle)	(日本語訳文)	
	domination (noun)	(日本語訳文)	
	dominion (noun)	(日本語訳文)	
	to domineer (verb)	(日本語訳文)	
	domineering (adjective)	(日本語訳文)	
TIME/AGO	a long time ago (日本語訳文)	many years ago	
		a long time in the past	
		ages ago	
		long ago	
SOONER	sooner than I expected (日本語訳文)	sooner than I hoped (日本語訳文)	surprisingly fast (日本語訳文)
THAN		sooner than I wished (日本語訳文)	all of a sudden (日本語訳文)
		sooner than I thought (日本語訳文)	before you know it (日本語訳文)
		...-er than I (日本語訳文)	
FLY	to fly from Xian (日本語訳文)	to fly over (日本語訳文)	
		to fly into (Miyazaki) (日本語訳文)	
		to fly on (ANA) (日本語訳文)	
		to fly by the seat of your pants (日本語訳文)	
		to fly in the face of reason (日本語訳文)	
		to fly off the handle (日本語訳文)	